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A SPOKESPERSON FOR COLORADO'S TRANS-GENDERED COMMUNITY

To : *Christine Taylor* *9-1-93*
Tenderloin Self Help Center

Hi Christine, you asked what I thought about Gender Identity Centers around our country. And what to do about our growing intolerances among the transgendered community. The problems you are having are no different than here in Colorado, or for that matter any other state. This summer I have walked into at least half a dozen Gender Identity Centers in the western area, and they are all about the same. With the last presidential election and Pat Buchannon's speach, alont with the religous rights pounding on homosexuals our society has become very segregated.

More and more Transgendered associations think it is smart to distance themselves from the homosexual community . I have been fighting this tooth and nail. Do these people really think that once gays are driven into the closet that the religous right is going to put up with us. HAHA. Most GIC speakers will say " Oh were not transsexuals, were women." Thats the biggest bunch of bull I ever heard , unless they happen to pass in society as good as Christy Brinkley they are going to be looked at by society as what they are, "Guys in dresses, or Queers." Sure they may be a woman inside, but to Joe Public we are all Queers. The wife and kids setting at home dont mean anything to society, and the quicker T.G. people realize that, the better things will be.

The Gender Identity Centers I have visited are all heavily from straight society. Mostly made up of Crossdressers, Transvestites, and Secondary Transsexuals. I always tell callers to go to GIC and see for themselves, that GIC is a certain nitch of the transgendered community and they should go see if they fit in. But what if they dont fit in, then what ?? Most transsexuals I send there call me back and say "Their just a bunch of TV's ", or transsexual wannabees, their not going to help me."" Most transsexuals now days are secondary T.S.'s. They seem pretty weird to a primary T.S., as im sure we are weird to them. I would say a secondary T.S. has ten times more problems than a primary T.S., thats because the whole thing is somewhat unnatural to them. "my opinion" I dont envy their struggle. Im not saying they dont have gender dysphoria, im sure most do. Our favorite plastic surgeon told me it was nice to have a real transsexual walk through the door for a change. Kindof says what he is going through trying to weed out the phonies. I was quickly approved for surgery without having to go to a shrink. Can I borrow $12,000 please

Colorado's GIC has a lousy reputation for helping people just like yours does. Your either one of them or your not. Our nations divided society has reached into the T.G. community leaving many with nowhere to turn for help. The gay community is overall accepting, but their not crazy enough about us to really give the help we need. I thought you had it preety good there with so many T.G. people from the gay side of the coin. Im always afraid a primary T.S. will come out of a GIC more screwed up than when they went in. Or worse yet they could be treated like I was here. I was ready to splatter my brains on the wall after my last GIC visit. I expected way too much from them, I expected friendship.

I look at GIC's as just another group of the transgendered people. A place thats existance is very necessary for some, but not for everyone. We all have a common bond as being cross dressers and should help each other whenever possible.
Why wont GIC's involve themselves with the gay rights movement, or help push for society to more tolerate us.? I just dont know. My husband says we are all very self centered with our gender dysphoria. Thats true I guess. Run your service just as you have and try to send people to the best place for them.
I have made a promise to myself to help anyone who calls my helpline, whether straight or gay, or by color or nationality, or religous beliefs.
As we say here in Colorado Springs , CELEBRATE DIVERSITY !

love Christy

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